

From: susan farrell
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Honorable Justice Hesse,

I am dismayed at the restraint with which the Department of Justice proposes to address the illegal monopolistic practices of Microsoft. Microsoft has for many years acted with contempt for the laws, ethics, common practices, and spirit of fair competition in the computer software and hardware industries. Even now they are poised to take over broadband, media content, e-commerce, and several smaller but crucial industries.

They have put other companies out of business in the most ruthless manner, stifling good designs, better products, and even open discussion.

Microsoft has in the past inserted intentional incompatibilities in its applications to keep them from running on competing operating systems. This problem has seriously affected my work for years, because I use those competing operating systems (MacOS and Unix).

Also, the proposed remedies, although seriously flawed in my view, since they do not address many serious issues, do not come with enforcement mechanisms likely to work. In the past they have treated legal remedies to their anti-competitive practices with contempt by ignoring them.

The alarming and potentially national-security-compromising state of Internet insecurity today is their fault, since they continue to ship insecure products while in fact forcing companies and .gov agencies to use them. The state of computing monoculture should be of concern to everyone. When one virus can wipe out billions of dollars in a week, it's time to ask "why are we so vulnerable?". Smart organizations, including the armed forces of Australia have already walked away from Microsoft solutions because of their inability to be secured or to be freed from the surveillance mechanisms Microsoft builds in for reasons of its own.

Please come to the rescue of the little companies, the hardware

manufacturers, the industries that depend on computing to do business, and the People of the US (indeed of the world), and protect us in a meaningful way from Microsoft's unfair and freedom-stifling business practices. The company is evil and it could destroy what's left of our economy if left unchecked and unpunished. They are almost a sovereign power now, because of their economic power and ability to punish companies who don't comply. Please take them as seriously as they take themselves.

They need to open their APIs. They need to be held accountable for their lack of security in their email and office products. They need to be made interoperable on competing OSs. They need to be prevented from forcing hardware manufacturers to include their products but not competitor's. They need to be prevented from owning the sole means of online transaction management (.Net). And they need to be prevented from dumping free technology that puts other businesses out of business, as they did with Netscape by giving away a browser for free until Netscape foundered. As they tried to do by giving free technology to schools as part of the settlement.

Thank you for taking the time to consider real sanctions with real enforcement mechanisms against this long-time bad actor in our economy. Please act quickly before even more companies are forced out of business.

Sincerely,

Susan Farrell
Portland Oregon
User Experience Specialist